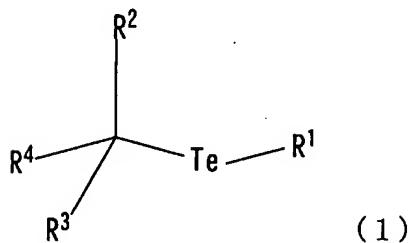


### Amendments to the Claims

1. (Original) A process for producing a living radical polymer characterized in that a vinyl monomer is polymerized with use of a living radical polymerization initiator represented by the formula (1) and a compound represented by the formula (2)



wherein  $R^1$  is  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl or an aromatic heterocyclic group,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are each a hydrogen atom or  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl, and  $R^4$  is aryl, substituted aryl, an aromatic heterocyclic group, acyl, oxycarbonyl or cyano



wherein  $R^1$  is the same as above.

2. (Original) A process according to claim 1 wherein  $R^1$  in the living radical polymerization initiator represented by the formula (1) is  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl, phenyl, naphthyl, pyridyl, furyl or thienyl,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are each a hydrogen atom or  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl, and  $R^4$  is phenyl, naphthyl, pyridyl, furyl, thienyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl or cyano.

3. (Original) A process according to claim 1 wherein  $R^1$  in the living radical polymerization initiator represented by the formula (1) is  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are each a hydrogen atom or  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl, and  $R^4$  is phenyl, substituted phenyl, methoxycarbonyl or ethoxycarbonyl.

4. (Original) A process according to claim 1 wherein R<sup>1</sup> in the compound represented by the formula (2) is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, phenyl, naphthyl, pyridyl, furyl or thienyl.

5. (Original) A process according to claim 1 wherein R<sup>1</sup> in the compound represented by the formula (2) is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl or phenyl.

6. (Original) A living radical polymer obtained by polymerizing a vinyl monomer with use of a living radical polymerization initiator represented by the formula (1) and a compound represented by the formula (2).

7. (Original) A mixture of a living radical polymerization initiator represented by the formula (1) and a compound represented by the formula (2).

8. (Original) A mixture according to claim 7 wherein the living radical polymerization initiator represented by the formula (1) is an organotellurium compound represented by the formula (1) wherein R<sup>1</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are each a hydrogen atom or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, and R<sup>4</sup> is aryl, substituted aryl or oxycarbonyl, and the compound represented by the formula (2) is a compound wherein R<sup>1</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl or phenyl.

9. (Original) A process for producing a diblock copolymer wherein a compound of the formula (1) and a compound of the formula (2) are used when a homopolymer is prepared from the first of monomers and/or when the diblock copolymer is subsequently prepared.

10. (Original) A process for producing a triblock copolymer wherein a compound of the formula (1) and a compound of the formula (2) are used at least once when a homopolymer is prepared from the first of monomers, or when a diblock copolymer is subsequently prepared, or when the triblock copolymer is subsequently prepared.

11. (Original) A process for producing a diblock copolymer comprising mixing together an (meth)acrylic acid ester monomer, a living radical polymerization initiator represented by the formula (1) and a compound of the formula (2) to prepare a poly(meth)acrylate, and subsequently mixing an aromatic unsaturated monomer with the product to obtain an (meth)acrylate-aromatic unsaturated monomer diblock copolymer.

12. (Original) A process for producing a triblock copolymer comprising mixing together an (meth)acrylic acid ester monomer, a living radical polymerization initiator represented by the formula (1) and a compound of the formula (2) to prepare a poly(meth)acrylate, subsequently mixing an aromatic unsaturated monomer with the product to obtain an (meth)acrylate-aromatic unsaturated monomer block copolymers, and subsequently mixing an (meth)acrylic acid ester monomer or aromatic unsaturated monomer with the copolymer to obtain the triblock copolymer.

13. (Currently amended) A process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~  
claim 1 wherein the vinyl monomer is at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of (meth)acrylic acid ester monomer, aromatic unsaturated monomer (styrene type monomer), carbonyl-containing unsaturated monomer, (meth)acrylonitrile and (meth)acrylamide type monomer.

14. (Currently amended) A process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~  
claim 1 wherein the living radical polymer is a random copolymer.

15. (Currently amended) A process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~  
claim 1 wherein the living radical polymer is a block copolymer.

16. (New) A process according to claim 2 wherein the vinyl monomer is at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of (meth)acrylic acid ester monomer, aromatic unsaturated monomer (styrene type monomer), carbonyl-containing unsaturated monomer, (meth)acrylonitrile and (meth)acrylamide type monomer.

17. (New) A process according to claim 3 wherein the vinyl monomer is at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of (meth)acrylic acid ester monomer, aromatic unsaturated monomer (styrene type monomer), carbonyl-containing unsaturated monomer, (meth)acrylonitrile and (meth)acrylamide type monomer.

18. (New) A process according to claim 4 wherein the vinyl monomer is at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of (meth)acrylic acid ester monomer, aromatic unsaturated monomer (styrene type monomer), carbonyl-containing unsaturated monomer, (meth)acrylonitrile and (meth)acrylamide type monomer.

19. (New) A process according to claim 5 wherein the vinyl monomer is at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of (meth)acrylic acid ester monomer, aromatic unsaturated monomer (styrene type monomer), carbonyl-containing unsaturated monomer, (meth)acrylonitrile and (meth)acrylamide type monomer.

20. (New) A process according to claim 2 wherein the living radical polymer is a random copolymer.

21. (New) A process according to claim 3 wherein the living radical polymer is a random copolymer.

22. (New) A process according to claim 4 wherein the living radical polymer is a random copolymer.

23. (New) A process according to claim 5 wherein the living radical polymer is a random copolymer.

24. (New) A process according to claim 2 wherein the living radical polymer is a block copolymer.

25. (New) A process according to claim 3 wherein the living radical polymer is a block copolymer.

26. (New) A process according to claim 4 wherein the living radical polymer is a block copolymer.

27. (New) A process according to claim 5 wherein the living radical polymer is a block copolymer.